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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/157,884    09/21/98    VEGA-GARCIA    A    777.179US1

021186  
SCHWEGMAN LUNDBERG  
WOESSNER & KLUTH, PA  
PO BOX 2938  
MINNEAPOLIS MN 55402

LM12/0706

EXAMINER

PRIETO, B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2756

DATE MAILED: 07/06/00

*2*

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/157,884

Applicant(s)

VEGA-GARCIA

Examiner

Beatriz Prieto

Group Art Unit

2756

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 11, 1998

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

(BP)

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

***Detailed Action***

***Drawings***

1. Drawings have been objected to by the Draftsperson under 37 CFR 1.84 or 1.152, correction noted on PTO-948 is required.

***Specification Objection***

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following minor informality; acronym **SSRCs**, initially presented on page 8, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph has been used throughout the specification without being properly defined as to what the letters of the acronym represent. Correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Clapp et. al.** (**Clapp**) U.S. Patent No. **5,802,281**.

Regarding claim 1, Clapp teaches substantial features of the invention as claimed;

Clapp teaches a computer system comprising two or more receiver payload handler modules and two or more corresponding decoder modules for handling and decoding two or more types of data (Fig. 5, 150, 170, 102, 104, 70, col 5/lines 1-5, 20-22). Clapp teaches a system/method related to network conferencing peripherals adapted for stand alone use/operation with a host computer system (col 1/lines 7-13, col 6/lines 8-20), disclosing a novel peripheral interface adaptable to existing conferencing systems, configured to receive/transmit audio, video, and data file information are transmitted to and received from a remote conferencing site over the communication channel, and associated means for means for acquiring source audio and video

signals, and respectively displaying on a separate monitor and broadcasting over an internal or separate external speaker remote video images and audio (abstract).

However Clapp does not explicitly denote receiver modules means as payload modules. Clapp teaches interface panels (Fig. 5, 150, 170), configurable to receive/transmit data (payload), performing payload reception/handling functions; It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute receivers payload modules with interface panels further extending receiving functionality's to transmission/switching/signaling functions.

Regarding claim 2, wherein one or more of the payload handler modules handles audio G.711, audio G. 723.1, video H.261, or video H.263 data and one or more of the decoder modules decodes audio G.71 1, audio G723. 1, video H.261 or video H.263 data (Clapp: col 9/lines 47-60, audio: col 22/lines 59-62, computer-readable medium comprising a first set of computer-executable instructions by which said decoders operate: col 9/lines 47-60 (integrated circuit)).

5. Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Clapp et. al.** (**Clapp**) U.S. Patent No. **5,802,281** in view of **Matsui et. al.** (**Matsui**) E.P. No. **0 893 926 A2**

Regarding claim 3, wherein further comprising a de-multiplexer operatively coupled to the two or more receiver payload handler modules for routing data to one of the receiver payload handlers based on data type. (Clapp: Fig. 5, 200 routing/separating means, col 8/lines 59-67 and 22/lines 57-59 and 9/lines 8-18 and 21/lines 20-26).

However Clapp does not explicitly teach where routing/separating means are executed by a de-multiplexer.

Matsui teaches a system/method for demultiplexing multiplexed packet stream data comprising various types of data and a data storage medium containing a program for implementing demultiplexing process by software (col 1/lines 5-9), disclosing a method wherein a de-multiplexer (301) is operatively coupled to two or more decoders (302, 303) for routing data to one of the decoders based on data type (col 6/lines 11-16, data types: col 6/lines 51-58, identifying/separating different data types means: col 7/lines 2-5, 14-19);

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Clapp's teachings to include means for routing/separating means are executed by a de-multiplexer, as taught by Matsui, because by doing so this would enable the system implement a configurable de-multiplexer software programmable for other data types or standards, motivation would be to further enhance existing system with an adaptable de-multiplexer configurable for other transmission protocols such as TCP, UDP and RTP.

Regarding claim 4, the combined teachings of Clapp and Matsui as discussed above, further comprising a de-multiplexer operatively coupled to the one or more decoders for routing data to one of the decoders based on data type (Clapp: Fig. 5, 200, 102, 104 col 8/lines 59-67 and 22/lines 57-59 audio type data, and 9/lines 8-18 and 21/lines 20-26 video type data, wherein the audio or video data from the first or the second computer system is audio G.711 data, audio G.723.1 data, video H.261, or video H.263 data, controller 200 handling both types of data separating/routing to corresponding decoding means associated with each type of data: col 23/lines 10-13).

6. Claims 5-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Clapp et. al.** (**Clapp**) U.S. Patent No. 5,802,281 in view of **Matsui et. al.** (**Matsui**) E.P. No. 0 893 926 A2 in further view of **Kumar** U.S. Patent No. 5,835,129.

Regarding claim 5, however the combined teachings of Clapp and Matsui do not explicitly further include an audio mixer operatively coupled to the two or more corresponding decoders.

Kumar teaches a system/method related to network conferencing peripherals adapted communicating with a plurality of remote host computers system (col 1/lines 1-30), disclosing means for further enhancing existing network conferencing system, particularly means for rendering images from each remote location simultaneously, method configured to receive/transmit audio, video, and data file information are transmitted to and received from a remote conferencing site over the communication channel, and display video images or signals from one or more of the other locations within separate display windows at their respective terminals, wherein an audio mixer operatively is coupled to two or more corresponding decoders (Fig. 2, 130, Fig. 5, 110 separator/routing means, network conference: col 6/lines 34-59, audio mixer col 7/lines 42-58).

It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Clapp and Matsui's teachings to include an audio mixer enabling different audio

streams for each remote locations to be switched or summed, as taught by Kumar, motivation would be to further implement a modularize audio mixer configured to handle all source decoding and coding requirements of the audio signal independently, further enhancing existing system with "plug-in" units providing scalable/upgradeable merits.

Regarding claim 6, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, further including a media rendering module operatively coupled to the one or more decoders (Clap: Fig. 5, 122/140, 220, 74, a high-speed output interface provides connectivity with the separate host computer system for coordinating, in cooperation with video conferencing application software operating thereon, the presentation of local and remote video, abstract, col 4/lines 38-45, col 6, lines 21-43).

Regarding claim 7, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, wherein one or more of the payload handlers includes: means for reassembling or combining two or more data packets, means for reordering data packets (Clapp: col 21/lines 20-26).

Regarding claim 8, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, further including means for streaming data (Clap: col 8/lines 30-48, streaming data from local host computer to a remote host computer).

Regarding claim 10, this claim is the computer system associated with the method disclosed on claim 1, same rationales is applicable.

Regarding claim 11, this claim is the computer system associated with the method disclosed on claim 2, same rationale is applicable.

Regarding claim 12, this claim is the computer system associated with the method disclosed on claim 5, same rationale is applicable.

Regarding claim 13, this claim is the computer system associated with the method disclosed on claim 6, same rationale is applicable.

Regarding claim 14, this claim is the computer system associated with the method disclosed on claim 8, same rationale is applicable.

Regarding claim 15, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, teach a computer-readable medium comprising: a first set of instructions for decoding a first type of audio or video data; and a second set of instructions for decoding a second type of audio or video data; (Clapp: col 9/lines 47-60, boards 102, 104 comprising chips circuit integrated processor).

Regarding claim 16, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, further including a third set of instructions for streaming the first or second type of audio or video data (Fig. 5, processor 200, col 8/lines 30-48, streaming data from local host computer to a remote host computer, col 22/lines 47-62, col 20/lines 20-23)

Regarding claim 18, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, a method of conducting a network conference with two or more computer systems (Clapp: col 4/lines 37-34, Fig. 1, Kumar, Fig. 1, col 5/lines 6-15), the method comprising: receiving audio or video data from first and second computer systems (Clapp: Fig. 5, col 80, 78 and 82; determining the type of the audio or video data from the first computer system (Clapp: Fig. 5, 200 routing/separating means, col 8/lines 59-67 and 22/lines 57-59 and 9/lines 8-18 and 21/lines 20-26), routing the audio or video data from the first computer system to a first decoder based on the determination of the type of audio or video data; determining the type of the audio or video data from the second computer system; and routing the audio or video data from the second computer system to a second decoder based on the determination of the type of audio or video data: (Matsui: de-multiplexer (301), two or more decoders (302, 303) for routing data to one of the decoders based on data type, col 6/lines 11-16, data types: col 6/lines 51-58, identifying/separating different data types means: col 7/lines 2-5, 14-19);

Regarding claim 19, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, the method of further comprising: decoding the audio or video data from the first and second computer systems (Clapp: col 9/lines 47-60, audio: col 22/lines 59-62, computer-readable medium comprising a first set of computer-executable instructions by which said decoders operate: col 9/lines 47-60 (integrated circuit)), and rendering the audio or video data from the first and second

computer systems (Clap: Fig. 5, 122/140, 220, 74, a high-speed output interface provides connectivity with the separate host computer system for coordinating, in cooperation with video conferencing application software operating thereon, the presentation of local and remote video, abstract, col 4/lines 38-45, col 6, lines 21-43).

Regarding claim 20, the claim is substantially the same as claim 2, same rationale is applicable.

Regarding claim 21, the combined teachings of Clapp, Matsui and Kumar as discussed above, teaches a network conferencing system comprising: an RTP demultiplexer for receiving and routing one or more RTP data streams based on data type (Matsui: de-multiplexer (301), decoders (302, 303), routing data to one of the decoders based on data type col 6/lines 11-16, data types: col 6/lines 51-58, identifying/separating different data types means: col 7/lines 2-5, 14-19); two or more decoder modules coupled to the demultiplexer for decoding data (Matsui: col 9/lines 3-17, col 12/lines 6-9); and a rendering module (Clapp: col 6/lines 60-64) coupled to the decoder for playing back one or more RTP data streams (Matsui: col 13/lines 13-44).

***Related U.S. Patents:***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure; pertinence is presented in accordance with to MPEP§ 707.05. Copies of documents cited will be provided as set forth in MPEP§ 707.05(a):

U.S. Pat. No. 4,377,86;

Huffman describes a demultiplexer for re-distributing data bits to respective tributaries by using individual channel units provided with real-time framing information by a state controller and provided with tributary routing selectability by a microprocessor.

U.S. Patent No. 5,841,763;

Leondires et. al. teaches a computer system comprising two or more payload handler modules and two or more corresponding decoder modules for handling and decoding tow or more types of data (col 13/line 43-62, col 14/lines 23-32).



*Conclusion*

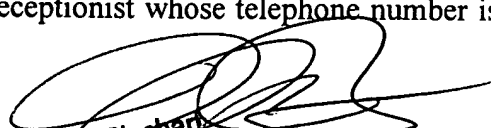
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Beatriz Prieto** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-0750**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 4:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, **Mark H. Rinehart** can be reached on **(703) 305-4815**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **(703) 305-9731**. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.



B. Prieto

Patent Examiner

June 30, 2000

  
Mark H. Rinehart  
Primary Examiner